

# TENNESSEE

## SCHOOL HIV PREVENTION PROGRAM

### PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM

Almost two-thirds of our nation's young people have had sexual intercourse by the time they graduate from high school. Half of all new HIV infections each year occur among young people aged 13–24, and HIV infection rates are increasing most rapidly among adolescent women. Thus, HIV prevention programs for young people are critically important.

### EVIDENCE THAT PREVENTION WORKS

Studies show that school-based HIV prevention programs reduce students' risk for HIV transmission by educating them to delay their first sexual intercourse, reduce the number of sex partners, and increase their use of condoms. At least partly as a result of HIV prevention efforts, the percentage of high school students who had had sexual intercourse dropped from 54% in 1991 to 50% in 1999.

### PROGRAM EXAMPLE

CDC supports HIV prevention education in all 50 states. As part of the Tennessee Department of Education's training plan for HIV prevention programs in schools, a skilled cadre of trainers have provided HIV prevention education to teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, and students. In addition, the Tennessee Department of Education has partnered with the Tennessee Department of Children's Services to reach young people in juvenile detention centers and group homes. The Tennessee Department of Education also works with the Memphis Chapter of the American Red Cross and the YMCA Urban Services Center to establish peer education programs in schools and in out-of-school settings.

### IMPLICATIONS

CDC and the Tennessee Department of Education are building a highly skilled cadre of teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, and peer educators who can provide potentially life-saving HIV prevention education to Tennessee's young people.